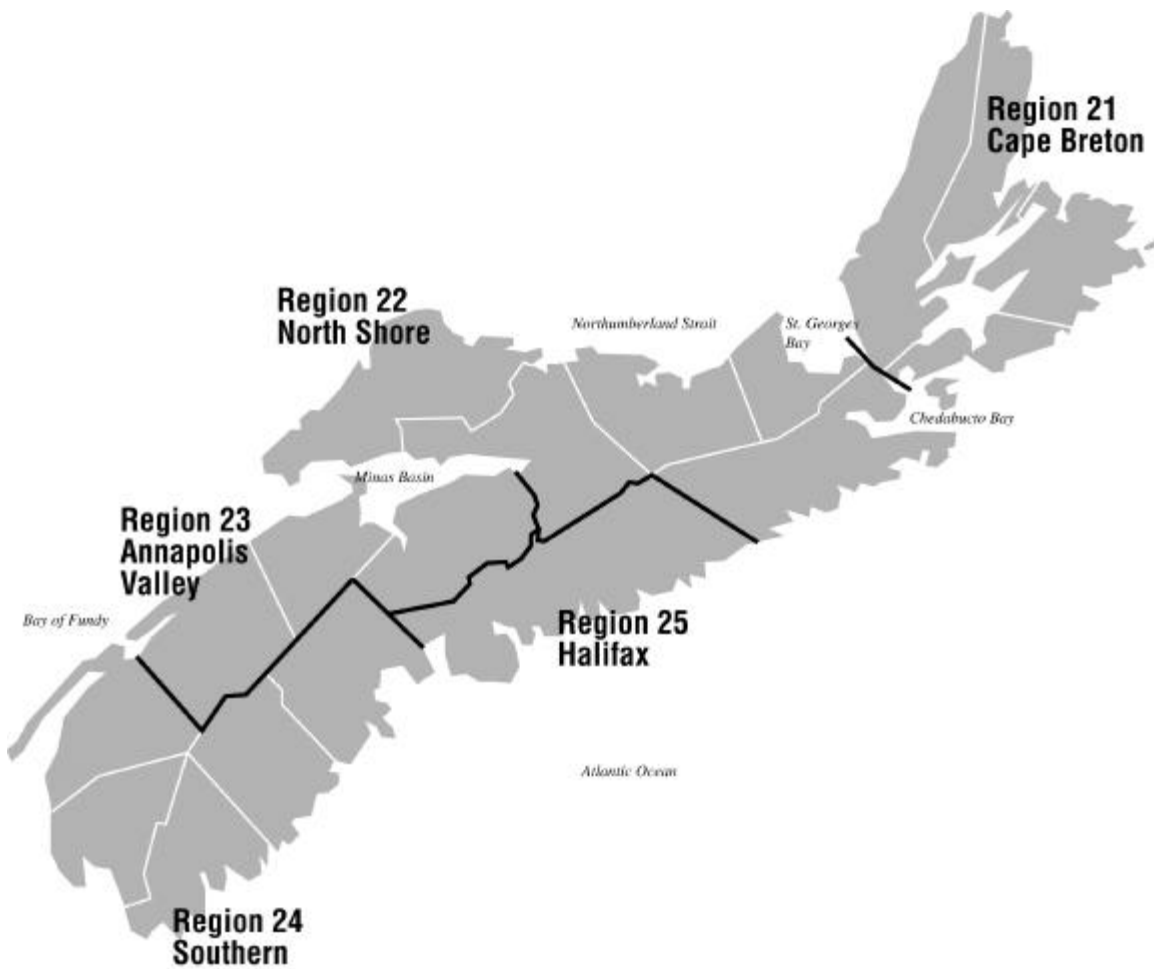


# Nova Scotia Labour Market July 2005



## **Labour Force Survey - Nova Scotia**

(August will be released September 9, 2005)

### **HIGHLIGHTS - LFS Release July 2005**

On a seasonally adjusted basis the provincial employment level in July 2005 decreased by 1,800 persons over June 2005 to 441,400 employees. The size of the labour force decreased 1.2 % and the number of unemployed persons decreased 9.5 % when compared to the previous month. As a result, the monthly unemployment rate decreased 0.7 percentage points to 7.9%. When compared to July 2004, the employment level decreased 4.4 % while the unemployment rate decreased 0.5 percentage points. The participation rate was 63.0% in July 2005, a decline of 0.8 percentage points from the previous month and a decrease of 1.2 percentage points from July 2004.

Based on unadjusted three month moving averages, the unemployment rate decreased in three of the five regions in the province over July 2004. The unemployment rate decreased

- 1.1 percentage points in the Annapolis Valley region
- 2.3 percentage points in the Cape Breton region
- 1.9 percentage points in the North Shore region

while it increased 0.4 percentage points in the Southern region and remained unchanged in the Halifax region

On a seasonally adjusted three month moving average basis, the unemployment rate for the Halifax Census Metropolitan Area was 5.9 % in July 2005, an increase of 0.2 percentage points from July 2004. In July 2005 the Halifax rate stood as the lowest rate east of Sudbury.

*Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue. No. 71-001*

## WHY STATISTICS CANADA GENERATES REVISIONS & SEASONAL ADJUSTMENTS TO LABOUR FORCE SURVEY DATA

“Most estimates associated with the labour market are subject to seasonal variation, that is, annually-recurring fluctuations attributable to climate and regular institutional events such as vacations, and holiday seasons. Seasonal adjustment is used to remove seasonal variations from almost 3,000 series, in order to facilitate analysis of short-term change for major indicators such as employment and unemployment by age and sex, employment by industry, and class of worker (employee or self-employed). Many of these indicators are seasonally adjusted at national and provincial levels. Main labour force status estimates are also seasonally adjusted for census metropolitan areas (CMAs), and published as three-month moving averages to reduce irregular movements caused by relatively small sample sizes.

At the start of each year the seasonally adjusted series are updated and revised according to the latest data and information for seasonal models and factors. The seasonally adjusted series are usually revised back three years.

Adjustments are also made to LFS data every five years after new population estimates become available following the most recent census. At that time, all LFS data back to the previous census is re-weighted using the new population estimates (since the new population estimates will cover the inter-censal period between the two most recent censuses), and all corresponding historical LFS estimates are revised. Therefore; at the beginning of 2005, all estimates were adjusted to reflect 2001 Census population counts and LFS estimates have been revised back to January 1976.”

Source: Statistics Canada, Statistical Survey Program No. 3701, Labour Force Survey,  
<http://www.statcan.ca/english/sdds/indexa.htm>

## Key Employment Indicators

August 5, 2005

Along with the monthly Labour Force Survey, several other data sources help view changes occurring in the labour market of the province. The following tables reflect some of those activities:

**Total Wages & Salaries** (Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue No. 13F0016XPB)  
 (April-June 2005 will be released August 31, 2005)

From 2003 to 2004, the annual growth in total wages and salaries stood at 2.9% in Nova Scotia reaching \$13,368.9 million and rose 4.0% in Canada to \$563,149.2 million.

### Total Wages & Salaries, Nova Scotia (\$millions - Actual)

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	Jan-Mar <u>2005</u>
Total Wages & Salaries	11,508.3	11,947.3	12,539.6	12,997.2	13,368.9	3,326.6

*Beginning with March 2001 data, the labour income estimates has been based on the North American Industry Classification (NAICS). NAICS based historical series were released for the period January 1997 through March 2001. Also beginning with the March 2001 data, the monthly estimates of labour income has become a quarterly release in conjunction with the National Income and Expenditure Accounts estimates.*

**Average Weekly Earnings** (Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue No. 72-002-XPB)  
 (June 2005 will be released August 25, 2005)

In 2004 the average earnings for all employees—incl. overtime (industrial aggregate) in Nova Scotia of \$611.93<sup>r</sup> per week increased \$14.85, up 2.5% from 2003, while the Canadian figure of \$705.68<sup>r</sup> represented an increase of \$15.33 or 2.2%. In May 2005 Nova Scotia's average weekly earnings (industrial aggregate) increased 2.9% over May 2004 to \$628.86 compared to an increase of 2.9% to \$724.84 in Canada. The May 2005 average weekly earnings in Nova Scotia were 86.8% of the Canadian average.

### Average Weekly Earnings, Nova Scotia NAICS-based(including overtime)

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	May <u>2005<sup>p</sup></u>
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	574.14	590.68	597.08	611.93	628.86

<sup>r</sup> - revised data

<sup>p</sup> - preliminary data

## Employment Insurance

(June 2005 will be released August 23, 2005)

There were 30,000 beneficiaries (seasonally adjusted) in Nova Scotia that received regular Employment Insurance benefits in May 2005. This figure declined 0.8% from last month and represented an increase of 1.1% over May 2004. Nationwide there were 512,190 beneficiaries, a decrease of 2.1% over last month and a decline of 6.0% over May 2004. Compared to May 2004, change in the number of beneficiaries ranged from -22.4% in Alberta to +10.0% in Prince Edward Island.

### Number of Beneficiaries Receiving Regular EI Benefits (Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>May 2005p</u>	<u>% Change</u> <u>May 2004 -</u> <u>May 2005</u>
	<b>512,190</b>	<b>-6.0</b>
<b>Canada</b>		
Newfoundland & Labrador	39,000	2.2
Prince Edward Island	8,560	10.0
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>1.1</b>
New Brunswick	34,800	3.0
Quebec	173,810	-5.2
Ontario	129,120	-5.8
Manitoba	12,490	-10.2
Saskatchewan	10,970	-10.6
Alberta	21,920	-22.4
British Columbia	50,790	-14.1
Yukon	900	-5.3
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	730 370	-13.1 -5.1

*Employment Insurance Statistics Program data are produced from an administrative data source and may, from time to time, be affected by changes to the Employment Insurance Act or administrative procedures. The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all persons who received Employment Insurance benefits for the week containing the fifteenth day of the month. The regular benefit payments series measures the total of all monies received by individuals for the entire month.*

## Public Sector Employment - Nova Scotia

(Source: Statistics Canada, Public Institutions Division, Public Sector FMS Reports (CANSIM retrieval Tables 183-0002 and 183-0004)

(2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2005 will be released August 24, 2005)

	<u>2000*</u>	<u>2001*</u>	<u>2002*</u>	<u>2003*</u>	<u>2004*</u>	Jan-Mar <u>2005**</u>	% Change 1 <sup>st</sup> Q 2004- <u>1<sup>st</sup> Q 2005</u>
Federal Government (includes military)	22,592	22,709	23,146	23,480	23,396	23,646	1.4
Military	10,814	10,391	10,526	10,599	10,696	10,948	2.7
Provincial General	11,615	11,303	11,108	11,288	11,082	11,125	1.4
Universities & Colleges	8,877	8,280	7,986	7,388	7,636	8,227	-4.3
Health & Social Services Institution	27,501	28,155	29,070	30,324	27,738	27,429	-7.4
Local General Government	9,212	9,490	10,228	11,031	11,068	11,079	1.9
School Boards	16,933	16,468	15,797	16,375	16,127	17,200	-2.6
<b>Total Government</b>	<b>96,731</b>	<b>96,404</b>	<b>97,334</b>	<b>99,885</b>	<b>97,046</b>	<b>98,704</b>	<b>-2.3</b>
Government Business Enterprises	6,825	6,396	6,479	7,049	7,676	8,214	9.1
Federal GBE	4,050	3,738	3,809	4,333	4,912	5,418	13.3
Provincial GBE	2,290	2,172	2,183	2,229	2,277	2,311	2.1
Local GBE	485	486	486	487	487	485	0.2
<b>Total Public Sector</b>	<b>103,556</b>	<b>102,800</b>	<b>103,812</b>	<b>106,934</b>	<b>104,722</b>	<b>106,918</b>	<b>-1.5</b>

\* Figures by jurisdiction do not always add to published totals.

\*\* Quarterly data is not comparable to annual data due to normal seasonal changes in some groups, e.g., universities, schools.